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"Harmony in
Diversity"

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Active
Citizenship"

VOLUME IV

PORTLAND, OREGON, APRIL 11, 1924

NUMBER 27

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Hotel Benson, 12:10 Sharp

SPEAKER

PAUL V. MARIS

*Director, Extension Service
Oregon Agricultural College*

SUBJECT

"An Agricultural Program for Oregon"

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE CITY CLUB QUARTET

"Always Entertaining"

There is probably no man in the State today better informed of Oregon's agricultural needs and possibilities than Mr. Maris. He was a leader in the recent, successful Agricultural Conference at Corvallis and in addition to possessing an amazing array of facts about our State, he has the ability and personality to present them interestingly.

This program and the two succeeding form a series devoted to state-wide affairs. Attend each one.

April 18th— C. S. CHAPMAN—"Forest Conservation and Taxation Problems."

April 25th— M. K. CAMERON—"History of Public Service Commissions."

May 2nd— Annual City Club Election.

REGISTRATION: WHO? WHEN? WHY? HOW?

City Club Committee Prepares Important Brief on Registration of Voters for Use by Members and the Public.

FACTS TO REMEMBER

Registration closes, Tuesday, April 15.

Primary Election, Friday, May 16.

Registration books open, May 17, and close again on October 4.

Presidential Election, Tuesday, Nov. 4.

That many citizens of Oregon are denied the right to register and vote because of a constitutional provision adopted in 1857, is one of the many interesting facts disclosed by the following report prepared by E. E. Bosworth, chairman, J. E. Drummond, Carl M. Little and George Mayo, approved by the Board of

Governors. In view of the urgency of the present moment of promoting a truly representative vote at the impending primaries and Fall election, the Committee has divided its report into two major recommendations, one with a view to immediate results, and one looking to a more permanent remedy. The report follows:

Co-operation Recommended

First, we recommend that the Members of the City Club earnestly co-operate, insofar as possible, with the Committee on Registration of the Chamber of Commerce in carrying out

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**New Office Location : 607 Oregon Building
Change Mailing List Accordingly**

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

Published Weekly By

THE CITY CLUB
OF PORTLAND

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Telephone Broadway 8079

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Entered as Second Class Matter, October 29, 1920, at the
postoffice at Portland, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879

City Club dues are \$1.00 per month, payable semi-
annually on May 1st, and November 1st. There is no
initiation fee.

CITY CLUB PURPOSE:

*"To inform its members and the community in
public matters and to arouse them to a realization
of the obligations of citizenship."*

Call the Chamber of Commerce, Broadway
0440, if interested in the agricultural excursion
to Orenco this afternoon (Thursday).

City Club Bowlers won three games Monday
night from the Progressives and are neck and
neck with Rose City for the leadership. Only
two more series remain to be rolled. The City
Club team also defeated the Multnomah Club
five last week for two out of three games and
total pins.

The following applications for member-
ship have been received:

DR. HENRY S. CAPPS
Ass't State Health Officer
Oregon State Board of Health

FRANKLIN A. KENNY
J. P. Finley & Son

WILLIAM LEVIN
Director of Laboratory
Oregon State Board of Health

PAUL C. NEWKOM
Expense Auditor
Montgomery-Ward & Co.

Proposed by Dr. F. D. Stricker (2), H.
L. Bowman and R. C. Moore.

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

Colonel Pegram Whitworth presented the
purposes of the Citizen's Training Camp in an
interesting way before the Club last Friday.

Group singing, under the leadership of Earl
R. Abbott, proved a popular feature of last week.
Practise on an Oregon song will be the order this
week, in addition to the appearance of the City
Club Quartet.

Space does not permit a detailed account of
the address last week by C. H. Pape, manager
of the Shanghai Building Company, except to
say that his comparisons of Chinese and Ameri-
can customs were interesting, and distinctly
different from those which we heard Dr. Hume
discuss in January.

The Committee appointed by the Board to
report on the methods and policies involved in
the letting of the bridge contracts by the County
Commission last week, is as follows: Richard W.
Montague, chairman, A. L. Andrus, R. M.
Boykin, R. E. Koon, W. C. McCulloch, R. W.
Mersereau, James J. Sayer, E. C. Willard and
W. W. Elmer. This committee met Saturday
and expects to make an early report.

A quorum of City Club Governors accepted
the invitation of Major R. Park, of the U. S.
Engineers, for a cruise of inspection of Portland's
waterfront last Monday. The party embarked
on the *Geo. H. Mendel*, visited the government
dredges *Multnomah* and *Wahkiakum*, operating
near the mouth of the Willamette, and spent
most of the day as guests of the Major. The
trip was highly informative as to the assets of
Portland's Port.

Another City Club tour which proved fas-
cinating was that taken by a group of members,
Saturday afternoon, when several beneficiaries
of the Community Chest were visited. About
twenty members responded and under the lead-
ership of Miss Margaret Spall, of the Con-
fidential Exchange, the Free Dispensary, Port-
land Commons, Albertina Kerr Baby Home,
House of the Good Shepherd and Girl Scout
demonstration at Peninsula Park, were en-
thusiastically inspected. So much that was new
and interesting was found that the group recom-
mends to other members that the trip be taken
at the first opportunity.

REGISTER NOW

Continued from page 1

its plan of action, which is briefly outlined as follows:

Publicity in all the daily newspapers, Labor daily and other daily publications, of news pertaining to registration, emphasis being given to increased interest in registration, items of unusual occurrences, etc., supplemented by editorial comment; posters for banks, libraries and places of business; slides for moving picture theatres; mention in the pulpits; cards printed with information as to registration requirements to be distributed in public gatherings, Clubs, fraternal organizations, hotels, churches and to be placed in parked automobiles; slips urging registration to accompany bills, deliveries, statements and communications; solicitations over telephone or in person, suggestions by heads of all business organizations to employees, etc.

In order that the members of the City Club may be advised as to the provisions governing registrations, the following brief digest of the law is given.

Digest of Law Given

All citizens of the United States, except those especially prohibited, such as members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, who have resided within the State for a period of six months, who are native born citizens or who hold the final citizenship papers, who can read and write intelligently the English language, upon application to the County Clerk or duly designated registrars, may become registered and thus become eligible to vote. Marriage on the part of a woman, removal from one precinct to another, or one county to another, or the failure to vote for two consecutive years, necessitates re-registration. Registration is not permitted during the thirty days immediately preceding any primary election or any general or special election. All persons must register in person.

The law apparently does not prohibit the establishment of other places for registration within the corporate limits of the County Seat, than the Court House. In fact, it is the opinion of your Committee that the law governing registrations can be construed to give the County Clerk the power so to do.

In view of the long wait which must be experienced by those desiring to register immediately preceding primaries and elections, and the consequent discouragement on the part of

busy men and housewives, your Committee recommends that the matter of establishing a large number of registration booths throughout the City for a short time before primaries and before elections, be thoroughly investigated. This is not an untried or novel plan as modifications of this scheme are, to the personal knowledge of members of your Committee, in use in at least two States, viz.: California and Wisconsin.

Citizens Denied Rights

In this connection we wish to call attention to certain disabilities under which many citizens of the United States, resident in this State, labor.

The Constitution of the State of Oregon was framed in August 1857, and became effective February 14, 1859, when the Act of Congress admitting Oregon into the Union was approved. At that time the generally prevalent jealousy of their rights and the fear of a hostile federal administration or a strongly entrenched state administration, caused the citizens of the State to insert among the constitutional provisions, two which now appear to seriously abridge the suffrage of certain citizens of the United States. The provisions in question are contained in paragraphs four and five of Article II of the Constitution. We quote as follows:

"4. *Residence.*—For the purpose of voting, no person shall be deemed to have gained or lost a residence by reason of his presence or absence while employed in the service of the United States, or of this State; nor while engaged in the navigation of the waters of this State, or of the United States, or of the high seas; nor while a student of any seminary of learning; nor while kept at any almshouse, or other asylum, at public expense; nor while confined in any public prison.

"5. *Soldiers, Seamen, and Marines Not to Vote.*—*Residence of.*—No Soldier, seaman or marine, in the Army or Navy of the United States, or of their allies, shall be deemed to have acquired a residence in the State in consequence of having been stationed within the same; nor shall any such soldier, seaman or marine have the right to vote."

Federal Employees Can't Vote

The effect of paragraph 4 is that any employee of the federal or state government who had not previously established his residence in the State, is prohibited from so doing during the period of his station in the State. For the greater

number of these federal employees, the period of the station is for life or during good behavior, they being civil service employees. They own property in and pay taxes to the State and Municipality.

The same effect extends to mariners operating in and from the Columbia River; to students in any seminary of learning; and to inmates of public institutions.

In other words, practically all individuals who enjoy the privileges of State employment or care and those of Federal employment are prohibited from voting in all elections unless they had *previously* established the necessary residence.

It is true likewise that a resident of the State absent by virtue of the above employment, does not lose his residence during such absence.

The effect of paragraph 5 is not only to prohibit any member of the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps from gaining the necessary residence, but even if he had had the required residence, he is prohibited from the right of suffrage.

It is interesting to note that paragraph 3 restricts in a similar way idiots, insane and convicts, while paragraph 6 restricts negroes, mulattoes and Chinamen, although this latter paragraph is, in part, abrogated by the Constitution.

Oregon is one of seven states that abridge the right to vote of members of the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps.

Amendment Is Urged

Your Committee urges the desirability of amending paragraph 4 and rescinding paragraph 5 of Article II of the State Constitution and recommends that the question of the manner and means of so doing be referred to the Legislative Committee of this Club, with the view to the Club's adopting their recommendation and pressing the matter through the usual procedure for amendments to the State Constitution.

It is our earnest belief, however, that no permanent betterment of the present condition can be brought about by temporary committees or eleventh hour drives. The value of continuous effort, possible only through permanent organization, is strikingly apparent in the results of the varied activities of the Chamber of Commerce, and in the specialized service of the Community Chest of Portland. Your Committee is

therefore presenting the following plan for your consideration:

Continuous Effort Advised

A permanent committee or body shall be created for the purpose of furthering the fullest possible registration of voters and the bringing out of a truly representative vote on election days. This committee should not be too large, should be truly representative, non-partisan and non-sectarian and should be chosen from those whose qualifications would peculiarly fit them for enthusiastic and efficient service and who would command the approval of the citizens of the Country and the State. The term of appointment should be longer than one year and terms should overlap so that normally the membership would not change greatly from year to year.

At certain times of the year its activities would be greatly enlarged, which would be taken care of by representative sub-committees chosen by them to perform certain definite duties. But the main committee would function throughout the year, laying plans, stimulating interest and co-ordinating efforts.

The selection of this committee should rest in some truly representative body in order to insure the heartiest of moral and financial support by all citizens.

We believe that such a permanent committee or body would materially aid in bringing to the citizens of the City and State a realizing sense of the individual and personal responsibility in the matter of better government.

That there is great need of an awakening of the average citizen to an appreciation of his duty in the exercising of his franchise there is no question. The figures for Multnomah County indicate that only approximately 60% of those eligible to vote are registered to date.

NOMINATIONS

The following nominations were presented by the Nominating Committee last week:

For President: C. C. Ludwig; 1st Vice-President, George N. Woodley; 2nd Vice-President, R. R. Denny; Secretary of the Board, MacCormac Snow; Treasurer, A. L. Andrus; Governors, three year terms, R. M. Boykin and Thaddeus W. Veness; two year term, Dr. Frederick D. Stricker.

Further nominations may be made from the floor on April 25th. The Annual Election is May 2nd.